

in southern Indiana by constructing reservoirs at Brookville, Patoka and elsewhere. The emphasis today is on building or extending water and sewer lines. My office spends hundreds of hours each year helping towns and cities throughout the district apply for the grants and loans to get these projects going, and we have had remarkable success getting our fair share of assistance from state and federal sources.

HOSPITALS, LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS

I have attended scores of dedications for improvements made in southern Indiana's libraries, schools, and hospitals, many of them completed with the help of federal grants and loans. I experience genuine satisfaction as I reflect on the improvement each facility makes in the quality of Hoosiers' lives.

RECREATION

Southern Indiana is blessed with some of the most scenic areas in the Midwest, and has long been a tourist destination. I have worked to promote recreational opportunities, including: creation of the Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge as well as the new Charlestown State Park; expansion of the Hoosier National Forest; construction of the Falls of the Ohio River Park and Interpretive Center, with its access to the ancient fossil beds on the Ohio River; and creation of a new Ohio River Greenway linking the communities of New Albany, Clarksville, and Jefferson.

LESSONS LEARNED

The past 34 years have provided many lessons in how to promote economic development. First, local officials must take the lead in planning for new development and attracting new businesses. Second, there must be a strong local emphasis on building a skilled workforce, including investment in our schools, vocational programs, and workplace training initiatives. These efforts will be particularly important in coming years as global competition for well-paying jobs intensifies. Third, our state must place a high priority on improving infrastructure. The highway bill currently pending in Congress will significantly boost Indiana's share of federal highway dollars and help address many unmet highway needs. Fourth, we must focus on encouraging our young people and entrepreneurs, never forgetting that the backbone of the Indiana economy is small business, which employs more than 2 million Hoosiers.

And lastly, even with its flaws, government will always be an important part of the economic equation. My experience in Congress has taught that good government at all levels can make our communities more competitive and our lives more pleasant. It can never replace individual Hoosiers' skill, hard work and creativity, but it can help lay the groundwork for successful development efforts, develop through education and training the needed skills in the workforce, build vital infrastructure, and help leverage limited funds to attract investors to our region.

HONORING E. DUANE THOMPSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose years of service to the citizens of my District cannot be overstated.

Dewey Thompson, for the past thirty-two years, has led the Association for Individual Development with both excellence and com-

passion. The Association serves individuals of all ages who are developmentally and/or physically disabled or mentally ill, and Dewey Thompson has played a critical role in meeting the needs of these individuals and their families. A former teacher and counselor, Dewey joined AID in 1966 as its President, and since then the Association has grown to include more than thirty programs and serves more than 1,400 clients annually.

I do not have the time to read off a list of Dewey Thompson's accomplishments and the awards he has received, but it is symbolic of his esteem within the community that AID's Rehabilitation Center was renamed in his honor in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Dewey Thompson for his years of service to the people of Illinois and my District, and wish him the best on his retirement.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HEALTH CARE DISTRICT MEETING HEALTHCARE NEEDS IN THE 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize The Washington Township Health Care District which has provided 50 years of service to the community of Fremont, California.

Half century ago, a group of civic minded citizens created the Washington Township Health District in the belief that healthcare is just as much a matter of public duty and public financing as is public education.

The District opened Washington Hospital, a 150 bed facility, within 10 years. Washington Hospital has been providing superior health care services for the past 40 years; the Hospital has grown right along side the community and has consistently been able to meet the needs of our community.

The founding members of the Board had the foresight to envision that returning profits to the Township, in the form of services and programs, would benefit the community more than profits being distributed to shareholders outside the District. In addition, the creation of a publicly elected Board of Directors provided ongoing community access to the governance of the District.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Washington Township Health Care District for the service it provides to meet healthcare needs in our community.

TRIBUTE TO BROWNIE TROOP #434 KEY WEST, FLORIDA

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brownie Troop No. 434 from Poinciana Elementary School in Key West, Florida. The troop received the community award in the 1998 Make a Difference Day

Awards on April 19th from USA Weekend, a nationally distributed publication.

Make a Difference Day, an annual event held on the fourth Saturday of every October, was started in 1992 by USA Weekend and The points of Light Foundation. The Poinciana Troop first participated in their event in 1996 by holding a school-wide food drive which succeeded in collecting 692 cans.

The troop's original goal was to collect 1,000 canned goods and recruit 13 businesses to volunteer as collection sites. They surpassed their goal last October 25th by collecting 2,213 items of food for St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and enlisting the participation of sixty-five businesses.

The Poinciana Elementary School Brownie Troop No. 434 is composed of 13 young girls, ages 6 to 8 who are: Katherine Albury, Allison Baker, Yanessa Barroso, Diana Baucom, Britney Bethel, Alexandria Caballero, Claire Dolan-Heitlinger, Espi O'Dell, Brittany Rogowski, Melissa Roos, Amanda Talbott, Andrea Wells, and Sheri Yuest. The troop is led by Troop Leader Dawn Albury. As their congressman, I am proud to represent such socially-conscious young girls. I am sure the citizens of Key West join me in wishing them continued success in 1998.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in West Allis, Wisconsin on the celebration of its 60th Anniversary as a congregation.

The dream of having a church where the needs of the area Italian speaking community could be met began in the 1930's for a group of about 250 Italian-Americans. But several attempts to rent space for worship did not prove successful, and in 1938, members of the Italian community began to work to raise funds to build a church of their own.

On September 21, 1939, the dream was realized, as Father Raymond Leng was named as the church's first administrator, and the parish began its official existence. The Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida also took up residence near the church and have since provided religious training to many generations of children from Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Father Leng served the congregation until 1946, and was succeeded by Father Salvatore Tagliavia, who served until 1956. Father Albert Valentino then became administrator, and remained with the congregation for nearly 35 years until his death in 1991.

The present administrator, Father James Posanski, was appointed in 1991. Since then, the church has undergone several renovation projects, the parish council was reorganized, and a number of spiritual and social activities were reintroduced to the congregation.

In 1992, the local Korean community began having bi-weekly masses at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. And, as interest in these masses grew, Father John Mace, S.J. soon introduced weekly worship for the Korean-American community.

Sadly, however, in December of 1996, due to a shortage of priests and declining numbers